



CITY of BEVERLY
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Inaugural Address – January 4, 2016

Good Afternoon. Thank you all for joining us today for this Inauguration Ceremony, which is truly a celebration of Democracy and of our great city and its wonderful people. Thank you, Kamie Fessenden. Your whole family are an inspiration to this whole community, and you are all much loved. Thanks to all the Beverly High School students participating today, the Color Guard, the Vocal Ensemble, the Jazz Band, and the Strings Ensemble. Thanks also to Rabbi Adler and Reverend Faria for your blessings. Special thanks to Drew, Meghan, Riley, and Daniel Fessenden for one of the best Pledge of Allegiances to the Flag that I've ever heard.

A personal thank you to Martha Lewis and Kevin Harutunian, two people I work closely with every day who do amazing work to make this city great – two people who have incredible integrity, two people who are talented and committed public servants.

Congratulations to my elected colleagues on Beverly's City Council and School Committee, and to your families and friends. Today, you all are making a commitment to this city. On behalf of the people of Beverly, I want to thank you for your willingness to serve.

Today is a day for celebration and for looking forward. It is also a day to honor and remember. In the two years since we were together in this room for Beverly's last Inauguration, much life has happened.

Two years ago, my late brother Bob stood proudly with me on this stage as the Master of Ceremonies, and he brought passion, warmth, and love to us all. Like me, many of you have had to say goodbyes to people you love since we last gathered here. In honor of them and for every loved one no longer with us who has helped bring fullness to our lives, please join me in observing a moment of silence.

Thank you.

Two years ago, we committed to opening city government, to engaging the community, to tapping our peoples talents in a shared effort to move Beverly forward. We committed to transparency and meaningful public process, empowering the people of this city to help shape our future. In everything we've done, these values have shone through. On issues like the McKay School redevelopment, the waterfront rezoning, the Brimbal Avenue Whole Foods proposal, the decision to move fifth grade to the new middle school, we have pursued a well-defined, transparent, meaningful public process culminating in thoughtful and decisive action. We have set an expectation that all public discourse will be respectful, and we are succeeding together as a community.

Two years ago we committed to revitalizing Beverly's downtown and waterfront. We convinced the state to remove the Designated Port Area that had handcuffed attempts to redevelop our harbor front for nearly 40 years. We rezoned our harbor front and now it, including the city-owned former McDonald's restaurant, is teed up for action. We have worked cooperatively with many community partners, and our downtown is full of life – with a new Cultural and Arts District, and with an invested, proactive business community, more and more people making downtown Beverly their destination.

Two years ago, we committed to moving key projects forward. Today, our new middle school is on track to be opened to our students by September 2018. In fact, earlier today work began on the abatement and demolition of the Memorial building. By the end of March, that building will be gone and construction of the new school will begin. Construction of our new connector road at Sohier Rd. and

Brimbal Ave. will be completed this spring, and our Rte. 1A/Rantoul Street project is well underway.

Two years ago, we promised some important new initiatives. This past summer, we debuted a very successful Summer Learning Initiative for 60 incoming first graders with great support from many community partners, including the Greater Beverly YMCA and Endicott College. The results have been overwhelmingly positive.

Last winter, we created a Drug Task Force, and we've worked diligently since to try to protect our citizens from the horrors and heartache of addiction. We have much work to do. The grip of addiction is powerful. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical, as is swift, harsh prosecution of drug dealers. We've made a start in Beverly, and we will continue to fight tirelessly for the lives of our neighbors.

The next two years will be busy:

- This month, we will conduct public meetings on the proposed Bass River rezoning as part of our broader strategy to promote redevelopment of our waterfront and revitalization of our downtown.
- We will work with state officials to advance plans for Phase II of the Brimbal Ave. project
- We will continue to improve our roads and sidewalks
- We will expand our Summer Learning Initiative to include at-risk incoming second graders this summer
- We will continue to value our vibrant senior and veterans communities with full programming and needed support services
- We will continue to provide critical high quality city services for all our residents
- We will make our outstanding schools even stronger

- We will keep working to bring high quality employers and jobs to Beverly
- We will continue to support entrepreneurs who want to invest in our community
- We will pursue new opportunities to beautify our parks and beaches, preserve open space, improve recycling, and make for a greener Beverly

Beverly has always been a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Beverly has always been a great place to build a life. Everything we do is focused on making sure Beverly continues to be this great community. I look forward to working with all of you to make certain of it.

Thank you. Now, I want to take a few minutes to celebrate and honor two local Beverly heroes. First, I ask Councilor John and Nancy Frates and other members of the Frates family to come forward as we honor their son, Peter Frates.

Now, I ask the Fessenden family to join me on stage as we honor their daughter Riley Fessenden.